

The Mint of the United States,

AT

PHILADELPHIA, PENN.,

Assay Department, October 30, 1879.

Hon: A. London Snowden
Superintendent &c &c.

Sir

I have to report, as the result of an examination in this department, at your request, as to the character and composition of the more brittle lots in the last receipt of gold from Melena—

It is gold, of various grades, but not of low fineness; chiefly alloyed with silver, as native gold always is; and made brittle by iron, a little arsenic, and some lead, various in proportions, and in some cases, almost destroying the yellow tint proper to gold.

These embrittling metals should, to a considerable degree, be refined out, before sending the gold to the Mint.

Very respectfully
W. E. DuBois assayer

864 1/2

W. E. DuBois
Assayed
Oct 30/79

Reports that
certain smelting
metals should be
refined of gold from
the Helena A.C.
before being shipped
to the mint.

Rec^d - Oct. 30th 1879.

[Abstract:] Reports that contain embrittling metals should be refined of gold... 864 ½

The Mint of the United States,
At Philadelphia, Penn.,
Assay Department,
October 30, 1879

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden
Superintendent &c &c

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Very respectfully,
W.E. DuBois
Assayer